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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 004949

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR A/S JONES

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TAGS: [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: SAWYERS AND DE MELLO VISIT ANKARA TO CONSULT ON IRAQ

(U) Classified by CDA Robert Deutsch, reasons 1.5, b/d.

[1](#)1. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

[1](#)2. (C) Summary: Outgoing British Iraq Special Envoy Sawyers and UN Iraq envoy de Mello visited Ankara July 30-31 and August 4 respectively. Both visitors exchanged assessments of Iraq with the GOT and noted the usefulness of a Turkish contribution to the stability force without applying pressure in that regard. End Summary.

[1](#)3. (C) Departing British Iraq Special Envoy Sawyers visited Ankara July 30-31. According to UK DCM David Fitton, Sawyers met with FM Gul, MFA U/S Ziyal, DefMin Gonul, Opposition leader Baykal and several AK MPs. Fitton noted the visit was primarily a useful exchange of views on Iraq. Turkish officials expressed their concerns about approving the deployment of Turkish troops to participate in the Iraq stabilization force. Gul was the most optimistic about a potential contribution, while Gonul and Ziyal focused more on the difficulties. The AK parliamentarians noted the uphill struggle they faced to approve such a deployment with public opinion currently very downbeat on a contribution and the US in general. Sawyers noted Turkish participation would be useful and congratulated the GOT on its recently passed rehabilitation law aimed at reintegrating PKK/KADEK members back into Turkish society. Fitton said the Turks were "quite hopeful" the law would be effective, although, not surprisingly, Baykal was skeptical.

[1](#)4. (C) MFA Iraq Head of Department Kerim Uras said the Turkish interlocutors noted to Sawyers the GOT's concerns about the situation in Iraq saying, "you know the issues" (i.e. Mahmoud Othman, PKK, the Turkmen, lack of contact with the CPA, etc.). Uras said Sawyers was very blunt and not very open to hearing the Turkish views. In addition, Turkish officials believed Sawyers painted an overly rosy picture of the situation in Iraq and "his arrogance left a very bad taste in our mouths."

[1](#)5. (C) Uras said de Mello was in Ankara for a short period of time, coming from and returning to Baghdad on the same day. He met only with FM Gul and had a working lunch and dinner with Turkish officials. Uras said de Mello came with no particular message, but like Sawyers, was merely here to exchange views on and assessments of Iraq. De Mello expressed frustration at the low level of cooperation with the UN on Iraq, noting that better cooperation would be good for the security situation. De Mello also noted a Turkish contribution to the stability force would be useful, but acknowledged there were risks involved for Turkish soldiers. He doubted another UN resolution would be possible under the current circumstances. De Mello was pleased with the humanitarian aid coming from Turkey and congratulated the GOT on the August 1 passage of a law that allows a "more official" WFP office to open in Turkey that will serve as a hub for food aid to Iraq. De Mello also told the Turks that US forces had discovered and confiscated a large amount of weapons at UNHCR's Mahmur Refugee camp, near the Turkish border. He suggested a joint plan by the US, TU, UNHCR and his office to implement the rehabilitation law and repatriate the PKK/KADEK members, most of whom were non-militant Kurds.
DEUTSCH